GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4279
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
REVIEW OF POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to review the National Polio Eradication Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether some experts have suggested for using injectable vaccination instead of oral polio drops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) National Polio Eradication Programme is reviewed bi-annually by the India Expert Advisory Group on polio (IEAG) comprising of National and International Experts from World Health Organization (WHO), United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta The last review was undertaken on 19-20th December, 2007.The observations of IEAG are as under:

Due to accelerated immunization rounds & use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1(mOPV1) in 2007, wild polio virus type 1 (WPV1) transmission is at low level.

The population immunity against WPV1 among children in India is high.

The 'core' districts of western Uttar Pradesh (in Moradabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh and Bareilly sub-divisions) have not reported WPV1 since November 2006.

The IEAG Recommended that in the first half of 2008 the activities should be undertaken with the objective of interrupting WPV1 transmission in the low transmission season, while maintaining good control of wild polio virus type 3 (WPV3).Taking the IEAG recommendations into consideration following steps have been taken by the Govt. in early part of 2008.

National Immunization days were implemented in January and February, 2008. mOPV1 was used in Uttar Pradesh,Bihar,Delhi and other high risk States and Districts and tOPV in other areas.

Sub National Immunization Round was undertaken in March 2008 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Mumbai and other areas at risk using mOPV1 during 30th March, 2008.

The migratory population in Punjab and Gujarat are covered whenever SNIDs are conducted in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

MoP Up immunization rounds have been implemented in response to detection of Wild polio virus in the state of Maharashtra, Haryana, Orissa.

(c) & (d) An expert consultation for IPV use was held at the Indian Council of Medical Research on 27th Aug, 2007. There was no consensus among experts regarding the role of Injectable Polio Vaccine in India,geographical areas and age group where it has to be used and its acceptance by the community.

The experts were of the opinion that in the current situation of polio eradication, India should find the shortest way of interrupting the Wild polio virus transmission in its main reservoir of infection i.e. Western Uttar Pradesh.